

# END TEXAS' YOUTH CURFEWS: Support HB 561 & SB 1486



**HB 561/SB 1486 would ensure children are not criminalized for being outside of their homes by eliminating criminal curfew ordinances.** Currently, Texas allows cities and counties to charge young people who are out late or may not be in school during the day with Class C Misdemeanors through Juvenile Curfew Ordinances (JCOs) that criminalize kids and send them to adult criminal court.

## THE IMPACT

Young people who are out late or may not be in school during the day may need special services, resources, or simple guidance. Others may work late-night jobs to provide for themselves or their family. Some are homeless. None should be saddled with tickets, court time, or a criminal record. Since 2015, no student in the state can be ticketed for truancy, the failure to attend school. But, cities nonetheless continue to criminalize students in conflict with state law.

Research shows this type of justice system contact is harmful for youth, making it **less likely they will succeed in school** and **more likely that they will have future court and police interactions.** Curfew ordinances often disproportionately affect youth of color with more stops and citations as well as homeschool students. Homeschool students may be finished with school early, start school later, or have different days off than other students.

YOUTH BETWEEN 10 AND 16  
CAN BE SENT TO

**ADULT CRIMINAL COURT**

WITHOUT REPRESENTATION.

THEY MAY FACE

**FINES UP TO \$500**

AND END UP WITH A

**CRIMINAL RECORD.**

**Smart community policing  
increases safety.**

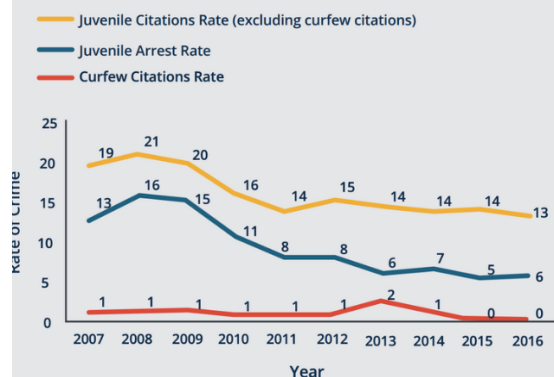
Police can talk with young people who are out and offer help and resources without criminalizing them. Building trust with young people increases safety.

## JUVENILE CRIME DECLINES WITHOUT CURFEWS

Juvenile crime rates have **DECREASED NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY** including in cities that do not have juvenile curfews.

Austin and Waco have eliminated their juvenile curfew ordinances. Austin saw a 21% decrease in juvenile victimization in one year, and Waco has seen no increase in juvenile citation or arrest.

Crime Rate per 1,000 Juveniles: Waco, Texas (2007-2016)



Juvenile population totals were taken from McLennan County estimates.